

Department B Reopening Protocols

Upon the reopening of the federal courthouses on June 14, 2021, Department B will continue to decide most matters on its law and motion calendars (Chapter 13 included) on the papers and without oral argument. Oral argument will be set if it is determined to be necessary for, or will aid in the resolution of, a particular matter being heard.

Appearances for oral argument may be in-person in the courtroom or telephonic. It will continue to be the responsibility of an individual appearing telephonically to arrange for an appearance through CourtCall.

All trials and evidentiary hearings will require in-person appearances in the courtroom.

The following protocols will apply for all in-person appearances in the courtroom:

- * When necessary, matters will be called 10 at a time in the order as they appear on the calendar. Attorneys, clients, pro se debtors, and any other individual making an appearance for the first 10 calendared matters may enter the courtroom. Attorneys, clients, pro se debtors, and all others appearing on matters after the first 10 calendared matters will remain outside of the courtroom until notified that their group is called. (*Think of this as the Southwest Airlines boarding procedure.*).
- * Attorneys and other individuals appearing for a called matter will enter an appearance from and remain seated at the counsel tables. Attorneys will address the court while seated at the counsel tables. The podium will not be used.
- * The row of seats directly behind the counsel tables will not be used. Seating is permitted only in the first and last rows of the gallery, *i.e.*, the area behind the bar that separates counsel tables and general seating. Available seating in the gallery rows will be noted.
- * All individuals entering the courtroom will wear masks. Masks will be worn at all times while in the courtroom. Masks may be removed when addressing the court.
- * A testifying witness will wear a mask until seated in the witness box at which time the mask will be removed in order to facilitate the court's determination of credibility.

Gloves will be made available for the witness to wear while handling exhibits. The witness will remove and dispose of gloves before leaving the witness stand.

- * When a matter is concluded, attorneys will clean the counsel tables and chair handles with wipes which will be made available on the counsel tables. There will be a waste basket for disposal of used wipes.
- * Hand sanitizer will be made available in the courtroom.